Touts in Rail Reservation

103. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report that appeared in tht Indian Express dated 22nd June, 1992 regarding flourishing trade by touts in exploiting the people for getting rail reservation; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Surprise checks and raids are conducted by the Vigilance organisations of all Zonal Railways including Vigilance (Special Squad), Railway Board throughout country.

(ii) Under the Railway Act, 1989 the punishment for touts who illegaly purchase tickets in fictitious names and later on sell the same to other person, has been substantially increased.

(iii) Public are educated through Press, T.V., Posters etc. not to buy tickets from unauthorised persons.

(iv) Special concerted drives to check malpractices in the reservation offices are undertaken atleast twice a year during summer rush. Holidays and during Durga pooja/Dussehra/Deewali periods.

(v) During the year 1991, 2269 touts were apprehended indulging in the sale of Railway reservation tickets bought in fictitious names. Similarly till May 92, 983 touts have been apprehended.

(vi) During the year 1991, 9153 passengers travelling on transfered tickets with fictitious names were detected in different trains. In the current year up to May, 1992, the number of such persons has been 2796. These checks are being intensified to curb the activities of touts and alio to educate the travelling public.

Stocks of Iron Ore at Paradip Port

104. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Paradip Port was established mainly for the purpose of exporting iron ore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that huge stocks of Iron ore lying there for years awaiting export: and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Current stocks are approximately 6 lakh tonnes.

(c) Reduction in contract quantity and inadequate nomination of vessels by buyers.

Development of Kakinada Port

105. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the Progress achieved so far in developing Kakinada Port with external aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Kakinada Port is being developed as deep draft port with ADB assistance to the extent of US $ 77.90 million.

The ADB has approved the list of prequalified contractors for contract C-l Breakwater and Contract C-2 Approach, berths and back-up area. Tenders have been received for the above works on 5-6-92. The bids received are under scrutiny.

Privatisation of Htadnstan Shipyard Limited

106. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Shipyard Limited has huge accumulated losses; and